Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure

Plan for 2017-18

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Government of Saskatchewan

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Statement from the Minister

The Honourable David Marit

Minister of Highways and Infrastructure

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure Plan for 2017-18.

Government Direction and Budget for 2017-18 is focused on *Meeting the Challenge*, finding the right balance between addressing the deficit and ensuring that Saskatchewan people continue to have the programs, services and infrastructure that they need. Government will deliver sustainable, high quality public services in the most cost-effective way possible.

The 2017-18 Highways and Infrastructure budget continues our government's investments into enhancing the provincial highway network with rural highway upgrades and major infrastructure projects. Phase I of the Regina Bypass, which includes overpasses at Balgonie, White City and Tower Road, will be opened in the fall of 2017, and Phase II is well underway. The Ministry will be continuing its investments in preserving and maintaining highways, investing in safety and planning for the future prosperity of our province. Our investments in roads and bridges will ensure that we continue to address the infrastructure deficit.

Investments in highways and infrastructure support the economy by improving access to local and international markets. This is represented in the Ministry's Vision: *Transportation -- Connecting Saskatchewan to the World.* Our government will continue its work towards a sustainable transportation system that improves transportation safety while exploring opportunities for future major projects that reduce congestion and improve transport routes throughout our province. These projects provide the foundation for future growth, which will enhance the quality of life for all people of Saskatchewan.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to *Meeting the Challenge* of the current fiscal situation. In so doing, Government will continue to support and encourage economic growth, and ensure government services are affordable and sustainable in the long term. This will include pursuing transformational change so that Saskatchewan people have the programs, services and infrastructure they need now and in the future.

This focus will continue to advance Government toward the realization of Saskatchewan's Vision and goals.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and partners to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2017-18 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Ministry manages and provides for the future development of an integrated provincial transportation system which supports economic growth and prosperity for Saskatchewan. Our infrastructure investments will be guided by strategic transportation policy and incorporate operating and maintenance practices which promote the safe and efficient movement of people and goods.

Mission Statement

To provide a safe, reliable transportation system that supports Saskatchewan's growth agenda and quality of life. We strive to deliver innovative sustainable infrastructure to serve the needs of our customers.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: Supporting trade and investment - Economic corridors and gateways facilitate growth in export and trade and the movement of goods and services locally, regionally, and internationally.

Ministry Goal

Efficient travel for trucks and commuters

Strategy

Reduce congestion by investing in new infrastructure around major cities and on high-traffic corridors.

Key Actions

- Construct the Regina Bypass.
  - Complete phase I of the Regina Bypass from Balgonie to Highway 33 for opening in late 2017.
  - Build phase II of the Regina Bypass from Highway 33 to Highway 11 for opening in late 2019.
- Continue construction of the Warman and Martensville interchanges.
- Work with provincial ministries, agencies, municipalities and the federal government to maximize investment in Saskatchewan's provincial and municipal infrastructure through trade and transportation funding identified by the federal government.

Performance Measures

Travel time around major urban congested areas.

Investments around urban centres are important for the safe free-flow of traffic from commercial carriers and commuters alike. This measure will establish data to be used as reference for the Ministry's efforts over the long term in addressing the growth of urban census metropolitan areas. It will establish a baseline for future targets.

Value of projects approved by the Government of Canada towards the $196.5 million in federal funding allocated to the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure – 2017-18 target is to have all $196.5 million either fully approved or approved in principle by March 31, 2018.

In Saskatchewan, many improvements are required to the provincial highway infrastructure in order to improve the road network for the citizens of the province. This measure ensures the accountability of the government in utilizing all of the federally designated funding to provide the best value.

Strategy

Improve the flow of goods in the supply chain by reducing impediments in the regulatory environment.

Key Actions

- Work with national and regional task forces, along with provincial jurisdictions, to reduce barriers to trade and interprovincial truck movement, and harmonize policies, standards and regulations.
- Identify supply chain improvements within western trade and transportation corridors through organizations like the Pacific Gateway Alliance to improve access to the international markets.
- Update acts and regulations to continue to provide safe mobility on the highway network through ongoing legislative and regulatory review within the Government's regulatory agenda and planning process.
- Collaborate with SaskPower, the Ministry of Economy and other jurisdictions to develop a network of high clearance corridors.
- Advance Saskatchewan's interests and needs on trade and transportation regulation and infrastructure through Federal, Provincial and Territorial Working Groups like the Council of Ministers for Transportation and Highway Safety.

Performance Measure

Utilization by industry of high clearance corridors.

The high clearance corridors provide efficient routes to haul oversized items through the province. This measure is collected by permitting done and reported by SGI and provides a high level view of activity on corridors. It will establish a baseline for future targets.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: Enhancing quality of life - Transportation infrastructure is the foundation for economic growth and improved quality of life.

Ministry Goal

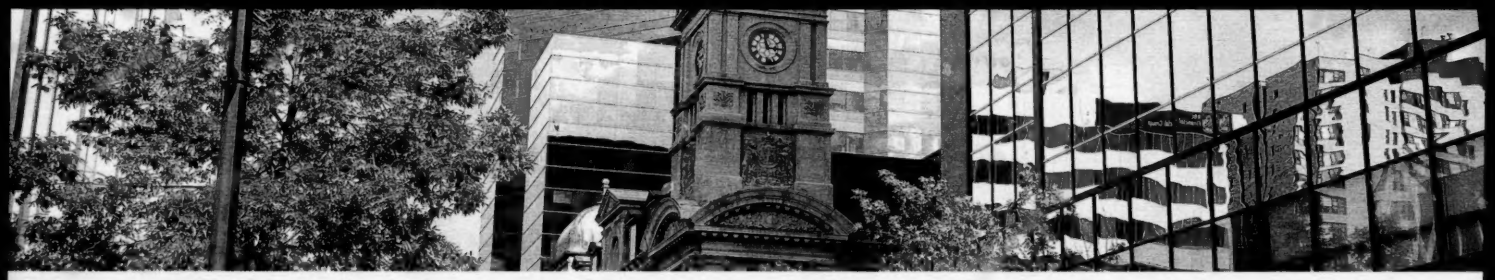
Improved Road Conditions

Strategy

Improve level of service through defined standards for provincial highways.

Key Actions

- Develop and implement level of service standards for summer and winter program delivery on highways.
- Repave 300 km of highways in Saskatchewan.
- Provide appropriate pavement treatments to increase the longevity of the assets to meet life cycle requirements.
  - Deliver 400 km of medium pavement treatments, which enhance the condition and longevity.
  - Deliver a program of light pavement treatments, which seal the surface from moisture and increase longevity.
- Complete construction of 150 km of rural provincial highways.



- Through the Urban Highway Connector Program, invest in urban highway projects and key planning studies to improve efficiency on provincial highways through major urban centres including:
  - the resurfacing of Highway 4 within the city limits of Swift Current;
  - the rehabilitation of the North Service Road in Moose Jaw; and
  - the rehabilitation of the junction of Highway 9 and Highway 10 in Yorkton.
- Improve highway corridors at risk of future flooding, including:
  - Highway 6 at Big Quill Lake – grade raise;
  - Highway 1 near Wolseley – culvert and berm installations; and
  - Highway 1 near Indian Head – drainage review and culvert installations.
- Extend the service life and ensure the adequacy of drainage structures:
  - replace or repair aging culvert and wood box drainage structures;
  - replace 25 bridges with bridges or culverts; and
  - make major repairs on five bridges.
- Provide overnight winter road surveillance and minor winter maintenance on high volume highways.
- Invest $53.2 million to improve and maintain infrastructure in northern Saskatchewan.

Performance Measures

Number of bridges upgraded – target 30 bridges for 2017-18.

The Ministry uses a condition index to rate the state of its bridges. The number of bridges upgraded will ensure the bridge condition index will improve or remain the same.

Number of bridges inspected – target 100 per cent every two years.

Bridges are an important part of the network's usability. As the highway network ages, it is important to ensure that bridges are in good condition.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

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Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: Increasing Transportation Safety – Continue to build safer communities.

Ministry Goal

Improved Safety

Strategy

Reduce collisions on the transportation system through targeted safety improvements at intersections and high-traffic corridors.

Key Actions

- Develop a comprehensive safety strategy.
  - Develop a multi-year safety strategy to reduce the number of collisions on provincial highways.
  - Integrate safety management tools into day to day activities to achieve safety targets.

- Deliver the twinning and passing lanes strategy.
  - Construct twinning and passing lanes to improve traffic flow and increase safety.
    - Complete the Bradwell Access portion of the twinning on Highway 16 east of Saskatoon to Clavet.
    - Continue twinning on Highway 7 west of Saskatoon to Delisle for 26.5 km.
    - Continue twinning on Highway 39 east of Estevan to Bienfait for 11.6 km.
    - Construct passing lanes on Highway 5 near Humboldt.
    - Continue planning for Highways 6 and 39 twinning and passing lanes between Regina and Estevan.
    - Continue planning for passing lanes on Highway 4 North of North Battleford and Highway 7 from Rosetown to the Alberta border.
- Through the Safety Improvement Program, invest $7 million on safety projects, including:
  - pre-construction work for high speed ramps at Kalium Road on Highway 1;
  - turning lane improvements on Highway 3 at Shellbrook; and
  - paving turning lanes and installing traffic signals at Armour Road, Industrial Drive and Highway 6 near Regina.
- Reinforce safe driving practices in Ministry construction work zones and around snow plows through the annual Work Zone and Snow Zone campaigns.
- Deliver the Pavement Marking Program to provide visible pavement lines for a safe directional flow of traffic.
- Deliver the Signing Stewardship Program to rehabilitate, replace and install new signs in order to keep the overall condition of the approximately 119,000 regulatory, warning, guide and information signs on the provincial network in good repair.
- Deliver public crossing and provincial rail inspection programs for provincially regulated rail lines and shortline companies.
- Work with provincial shortlines to apply federal railway rules and rail safety regulations on provincially regulated railways.
- Collect and audit safety management plans from industrial and common carrier shortline railways.
- Continue to participate in "Road Check" and "Operation Air Brake" annual international safety inspection events, and plan strategic enforcement activities to reduce commercial vehicle safety violations.

Performance Measure

Number of fatalities, injuries and property damage collisions.

This measure will track success of infrastructure safety improvements and operations/maintenance practices on reducing the number of collisions over time.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

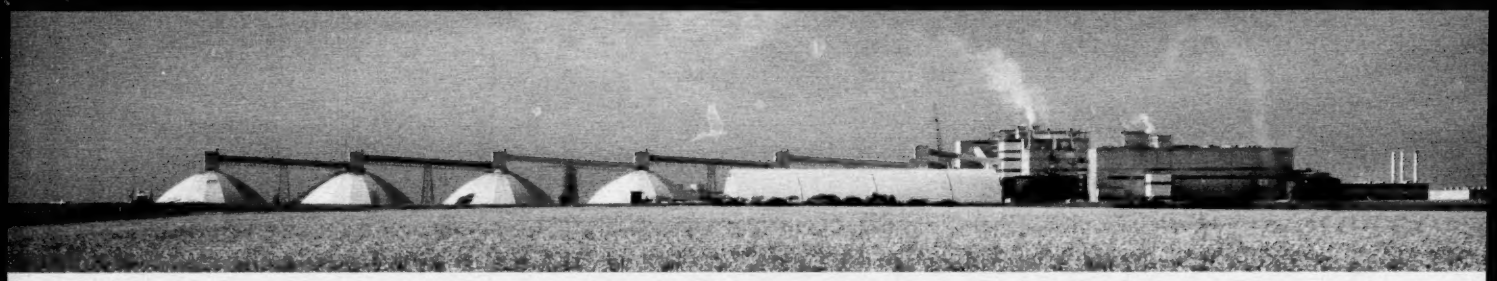
Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth:* Efficiently managing the transportation system – Integrated planning of initiatives at the provincial, regional, and municipal level that result in future population and private sector growth.

Ministry Goal

Integrated Planning

Strategy

Assess transportation demand through engagement with citizens and stakeholders.



Key Actions

- Integrate the rural highway policy into the Ministry's planning and prioritization processes.
- Work with SGI to collaborate in the development of a single-window permitting system across the western provinces by 2020.
- Continue to provide quality road information for travellers through the Highway Hotline.
- Provide traffic volume maps and biennial travel books by collecting data from over one thousand locations annually.
- Provide guidance to Area Transportation Planning Committees as they develop transportation plans to better support prioritization efforts.

Performance Measures

Number of Highway Hotline website visits and calls.

Measuring website visits and calls illustrates the public's demand for information on weather related highway conditions, closures and construction zones.

Travel demand in million vehicle kilometres.

The annual travel on the provincial highway system is an indicator of changes in demand.

Strategy

Define a sustainable transportation system by identifying multimodal solutions to address differing needs.

Key Actions

- Support community airports through the Community Airport Partnership Program, which results in a $1.4 million investment for improvements to small airports.
- Work with the private sector in Saskatchewan to improve aviation services through the Aviation Advisory Committee.
- Advance Saskatchewan's interests to address amendments to the *Canada Transportation Act*.
- Support transportation system integration to improve mobility on the provincial and municipal road systems.
    - Invest $14 million through the Municipal Roads for the Economy Program (MREP) – a partnership agreement with Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities – for municipal road and bridge enhancement and preservation, including:
        - the Clearing the Path program, which funds road construction projects and the incremental maintenance of primary weight routes through rural Saskatchewan. This program assists the Ministry by reducing truck traffic on Thin Membrane Surface (TMS) highways; and
        - the Heavy Haul-High Volume program which assists rural municipalities with the costs of constructing or upgrading municipal roads, bridges and culverts that support economic activity and/or resource development.
    - Work with rural municipalities to provide alternate truck routes on municipal roads through Strategic Partnership Program agreements to help preserve TMS highways.

Performance Measure

Usage of Clearing the Path and Heavy Haul Routes.

Designated truck routes assist our government in preserving the condition of at-risk highways by moving heavier traffic to municipal roads that can handle the weight. Preserving highways provides a better driving experience for users.

Strategy

Improve Ministry processes through understanding and streamlining service delivery practices to build organizational capacity.

Key Actions

- Continue the implementation of the best value approach for the Ministry's construction activities, including a contractor performance rating process.
- Continue the review and implementation of best value practices for consultant contracting.
- Improve land acquisition processes through the review and publication of land policy documentation.
- Improve internal systems and project management through implementing project management system software.
- Utilize the Ministry's innovation framework to move innovations forward.
- Continue to develop an environmental protection plan that will streamline environmental approvals while ensuring accountability with federal and provincial regulations.
- Collaborate with consultant engineers and road building contractors to improve the delivery and quality of construction projects.

Performance Measure

Number of innovation ideas that have gone through the innovation process.

The intent is to track the number of innovation ideas that are complete – either implemented by the Ministry or filed for use at a later date.

Highlights

2017-18 Budget Highlights:

The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure 2017-18 budget totals $1.100 billion, including a capital investment of $842.9 million. This budget allows our government to continue its investments in renewing and enhancing transportation infrastructure across Saskatchewan. This investment will continue the enhancement of infrastructure that connects Saskatchewan's economy to markets across Canada and around the world, while continuing to provide safety upgrades and maintenance of the network. With this funding, the Ministry will continue government's focus on the integrated planning of transportation and the economic growth and improved quality of life for Saskatchewan's people.

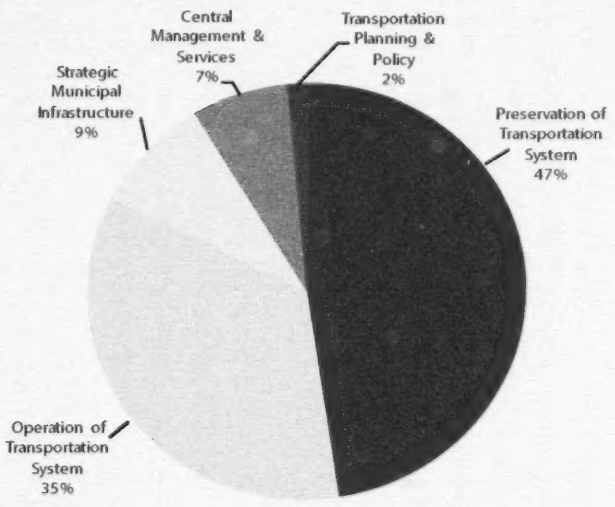
- Our government will continue to preserve and improve the condition of the provincial highway system through these important investments:
  - $110.6 million for preventative maintenance on provincial highways and bridges; and
  - $106.7 million for capital preservation, including 700 km of improvements to highways.
- $560.4 million for major projects supporting the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*:
  - Constructing twinning and passing lanes to improve traffic flow and increase safety.
    - Complete twinning on Highway 16 east of Saskatoon to Clavet for 19.5 km.
    - Continue twinning on Highway 7 west of Saskatoon to Delisle for 26.5 km.
    - Continue twinning on Highway 39 east of Estevan to Bienfait for 11.6 km.
    - Construct passing lanes on Highway 5 near Humboldt.
  - Continue construction on the interchanges at Highway 11 (Warman) and Highway 12 (Martensville).
  - Continue planning for Highways 6 and 39 twinning and passing lanes between Regina and Estevan.
  - Continue construction on the Regina Bypass project through a public-private partnership (P3) contract.
- $86.1 million for rural highway system upgrades to improve accessibility and safety.
- $53.9 million of capital to replace and rehabilitate bridges and culverts.
- Providing $14 million to Rural Municipalities through the Municipal Roads for the Economy Program that will enhance or preserve rural municipal transportation infrastructure.
- The Urban Highway Connector Program will invest $6.7 million towards capital projects and operations and maintenance to improve the safe and efficient movement of people and goods by enhancing traffic flow through urban municipalities.
- Deliver $13 million of infrastructure restoration and upgrades as a result of flooding damages.
- The sale of the Saskatchewan Grain Car Corporation (SGCC) grain cars was approved and is expected to occur in 2017-18. To facilitate a quick sale, a budget bill that transfers all of SGCC's assets, liabilities and employees to the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure will occur. The sale will be conducted by the Ministry.

Financial Summary

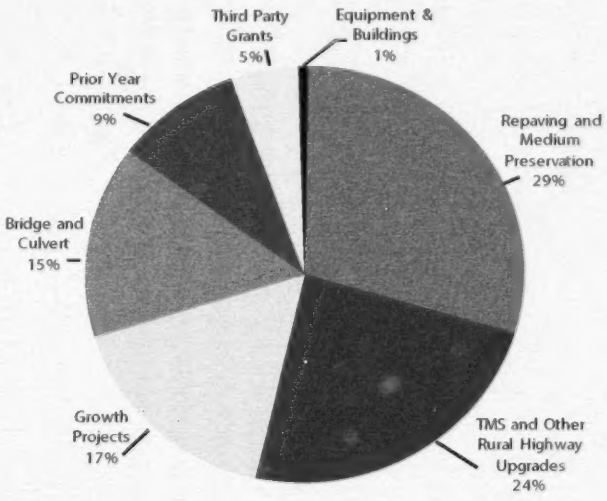
2017-18 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	$18,286
Strategic Municipal Infrastructure	$22,745
Operation of Transportation System	$90,028
Preservation of Transportation System	$122,228
Transportation Planning and Policy	$4,136
Custom Work Activity	---
Infrastructure and Equipment Capital	$842,882
Total Appropriation	**$1,100,305**
Capital Asset Acquisitions	($842,882)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	$173,263
Total Expense	**$430,686**
FTE Staff Complement	**1,322**

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget

Appropriated Expense Budget


Central Management & Services 7%
Transportation Planning & Policy 2%
Strategic Municipal Infrastructure 9%
Preservation of Transportation System 47%
Operation of Transportation System 35%

Capital Investment in addition to the Regina Bypass


Third Party Grants 5%
Equipment & Buildings 1%
Prior Year Commitments 9%
Repaving and Medium Preservation 29%
Bridge and Culvert 15%
Growth Projects 17%
TMS and Other Rural Highway Upgrades 24%

For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/highways-and-infrastructure